THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) There was a discussion in the Lok Sabha on 29.2.1996 on this subject in view of winding up of the Srikrishna Commission of Inquiry by the Govt of Maharashtra in January, 1996.

(b) No steps are either contemplated or necessary as the Commission has since been reinstated by the Government of Maharashtra in May, 1996. The Commission has been asked to submit the report by 24.1.1997

Palace on Wheels

602. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the palace on wheels has been gaining popularity in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to introduce similar trains in other States; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) A metre gauge tourist train has been introduced for the Gujarat Sector in collaboration with the Tourism Corporation of Gujarat which operates between Delhi Cantt.-Chittaurgarh-Udaipur-Palitana-Veraval-Ahmedabad-Jaipur-Delhi Cantt. between September to April.

Contracts have also been awarded on the basis of global tenders to organisations in the private sector for the operation of five tourist trains on the following circuits :

(i) Delhi-Jaipur-Agra-Gwalior-Jhanshi (Khajuroho)-Varanasi-Lucknow-Delhi.

(ii) Bombay-Aurangabad (Ajanta/Ellora)-Nanded-Secunderabad-Hyderabad-Pune-Bombay

(iii) Goa (Mangaon)-Mangalore-Mysore (Batur/Halebid)-Hospet (Harpi)-Bangalore-Goa (Madgaon) (two trains).

(iv) Bangalore-Mysore-Madras-Kodaikanal Road-Kanniya Kumari-Trivandrum-Cochin-Mettupalayam (Ooty)-Bangalore.

The above trains are likely to become operational by the end of 1997

Bridge at Bogibil over Brahmaputra

603. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to construct a bridge at Bogibil over the Brahmaputra connecting National Highway No. 52 and 37; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The Techno-economic survey and design of rail cum-road bridge across river Brahmaputra at Bogibil is being taken up shortly.

Passport Racket

604. SHRI PINAKI MISRA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a racket involving issue of fake passports and visas was bursted in Delhi in May, 1996; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A case under sections 420/468/471 I.P.C. and 12 Passport Act was registered in this connection. Six persons were arrested. Ten passports were recovered from their possession.

Dual Citizenship

605. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the representatives of American Association of the Physicians from India (AAPI) approached the Government for issue of dual citizenship; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b). Ministry of Home Affairs have not received any representation from American Association of the Physicians from India (AAPI) for grant of dual citizenship. However, question of grant if dual citizenship was considered but not accepted as the concept is not consistent with the Constitution of India and the Citizenship Act, 1995.

[Translation]

Dowry Deaths and Cases of Oppression

606. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases pertaining to dowry deaths and oppression upon Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes registered at the Police Stations in Fatehpur and Banda districts, Uttar Pradesh, during the current year;